



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION III
1650 Arch Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103-2029

June 15, 2007

Ronald Hillard, State Conservationist
Natural Resources Conservation Service
United States Department of Agriculture
75 High Street, Room 301
Morgantown, WV 26505

RE: Final Environmental Impact Statement – Watershed Plan for the Voluntary Floodplain Buyout of the Dunloup Creek Watershed. CEQ# 20070189

Dear Mr. Hillard:

In accordance with the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) and Section 309 of the Clean Air Act, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reviewed the above mentioned FEIS. The FEIS was prepared to meet the requirements of NEPA and to assess the potential environmental harm that may result from the proposed activities. The purpose of the project is to reduce flood-related damage to property within the 100 year floodplain of Dunloup Creek and to protect the health and safety of people.

The FEIS evaluated the Buyout Alternative and a No Action scenario in detail. The recommended alternative for the FEIS is to voluntarily buyout 238 residential properties in the Dunloup Creek watershed. Properties in the program would be demolished and the floodplain would be returned to natural floodplain conditions.

EPA has no objections with the recommended alternative to voluntarily buyout residential properties in the watershed and to allow the floodplain to return to a natural state. EPA commends the U.S. Department of Agriculture for developing a watershed plan that will improve the environment by allowing the natural functions of the watershed to return.

Should you have any question regarding this matter please feel free to contact Jamie Davis or my staff at 215-814-5569.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read "William Arguto", is positioned above the typed name.

William Arguto
Office of Environmental Programs
NEPA Team Leader

